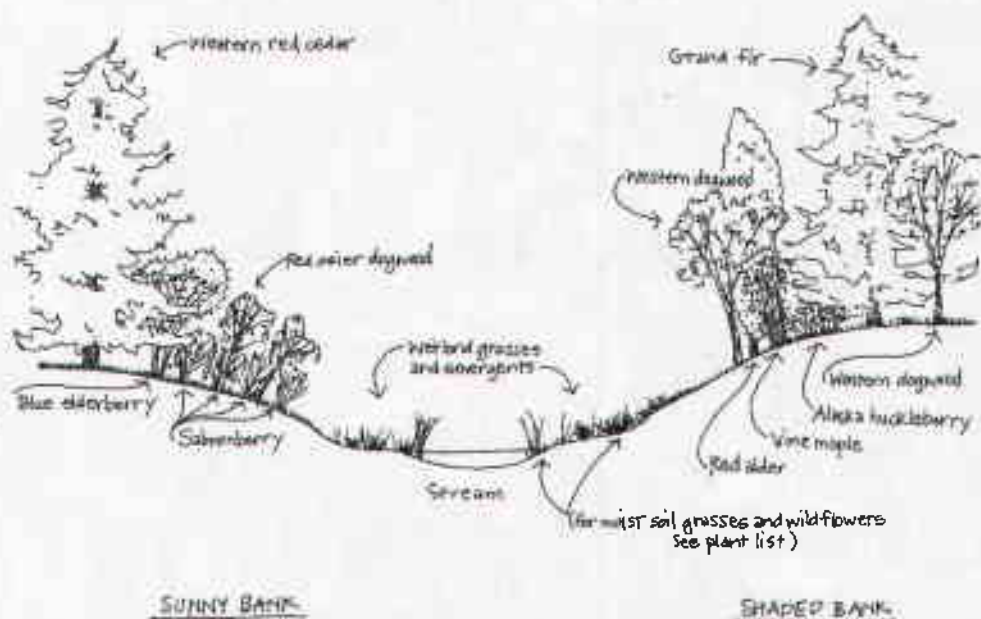


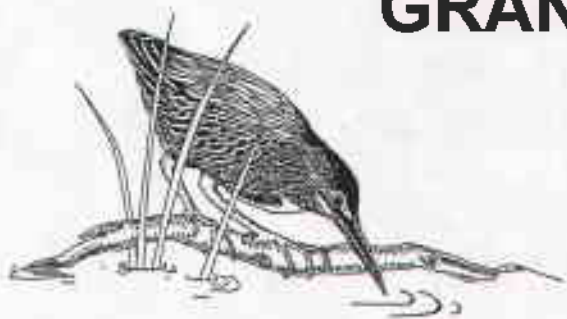


STEAMBOAT PARK

RESTORATION AND ENHANCEMENT



**METRO REGIONAL SERVICES
GRANT # 922544**



FINAL REPORT

Metro Regional Parks & Greenspaces Habitat Restoration Grant - Contract Number # 922544

Steamboat Park is a small city park just over one acre in size which abuts the Tualatin River along the southern border of Cornelius. The park was undeveloped and over grown with Himalayan blackberry, Reed Canary grass and other non-native plant species. The park is also located at a bend in the river where the seasonal flooding occurs. The City Parks Department with the help of a landscape architect (Greenworks, Inc.) developed a park plan to restore the area with native vegetation and provide for passive recreation opportunities. The proposed development of the park provides for a low maintenance theme. The park will also result in an improvement in the natural environment. The site contains a water quality facility, which is primarily non-native grass and weeds. The planting scheme calls for revegetation of the water quality facility with native wetland plants and the rest of the riparian area with native plants and trees.

The Tualatin River Basin is under pressure to improve water quality and meet clean water standards on a regional basis. The City has a responsibility to take advantage of every opportunity to provide enhancements that will work towards that goal. One opportunity is the revegetation along the riparian corridor of Tualatin River within the City limits. With the removal of invasive plant species it will enable the native vegetation to flourish in the riparian area. A canopy of native plants and trees will help to cool the temperature of the river water to benefit fish species. The property surrounding the City of Cornelius is almost exclusively farmland, devoid of significant tree canopy. Planting native plant species in Steamboat Park presents an opportunity to develop a park that by example will demonstrate the importance of riparian restoration and the value of trees. The native vegetation will stabilize the riverbank and help prevent flooding to surrounding properties, in this case urban residential. The new trees will provide a retreat from the summer heat for neighborhood residents. Every small grove and or lot of trees helps our urban environment to filter our airshed and provide new oxygen for our residents. Finally, the restoration and enhancement of the riparian area in this urban setting will improve wildlife habitat, which is become a scarce commodity.

In the winter of 2000 Steamboat Park was overgrown with invasive plant species (Himalayan Blackberry and Reed Canary Grass). The City in cooperation with Cleanwater Services (formerly USA) and Stop Oregon Litter & Vandalism (SOLV) engaged in a Team-Up Project for the removal of these invasive, non-native plant species. The City has also partnered with Oregon Department of Forestry, Cleanwater Services and SOLV for replanting the Park with native vegetation.

The incorporation of new native plant materials would help stabilize the stream bank, help moderate river temperatures, assist in improving water quality and provide new wildlife habitat.

On April 29, 2000 the City in cooperation with SOLV conducted a volunteer day at Steamboat Park for the removal of invasive and non-native plant species. Forty-five (45) volunteers work on-site that day and cleared and removed Himalayan Blackberry and Reed Canary Grass. Additional removal of non-native plant species continued through the summer with the help of County Correction workers and Parks Commission volunteers. The City followed the successful removal of invasive plants with volunteer planting days in March of 2001 and 2002. A total of fifty-four (54) volunteers participated in these planting days.

The volunteer planting days resulted in approximately 400 native shrubs and trees being planted and the continued removal of non-native vegetation. The City of Cornelius is a community with a small City budget for parks maintenance and development. Through the Metro Restoration and Enhancement Grant the City was able to provide 154 hours of contracted labor for plant maintenance, hand watering and removal of invasive plants. The watering and maintenance of plants was extremely important during the summer of 2001 when drought conditions existed for most of the spring and summer months. The Metro grant has guaranteed the low plant mortality we have experienced. As of June 30, 2002 only two of the new native plantings had not survived, both were lost to beaver damage. The Metro grant funds are directly responsible for this incredible survival rate by providing needed water and mulch for new plants and by removing competitive non-native vegetation.

Plant maintenance and watering is extremely critical for vegetation during the first two years after planting. The incorporation of native plant communities into Steamboat Park provides a low maintenance theme. The use of native plants result in reducing or eliminating the use of herbicides, pesticides and synthetic fertilizers in a riparian area and adjacent to a river. A portion of the Metro grant helped ensure plant survival specifically on the steeper sloped areas in the park, where erosion may other wise occur. This improves the water quality of the Tualatin River, which benefits the entire region.

Another important attribute of this project is the fact that it is a public park. The City in cooperation with Metro, SOLV and Cleanwater Services has hopes of this park becoming a showpiece in the region for riparian enhancement and water quality sensitive development. The plans for Steamboat Park include developing the park with interpretive facilities in the future. The current park plans and design does include an entrance wall that will be designed for the installation of interpretative plaques or signs promoting the values and benefits of trees, native vegetation, water quality and riparian enhancement. As a result of the Metro Restoration and Enhancement Grant benefiting the survival of the native vegetation the park can be used in the future for educational opportunities.

STEAMBOAT PARK – WINTER 2000



SOME PROJECT STATISTICS

SITE:

Cornelius, OR
Washington County

T1S, 3W, Section 4DA (Map # 1S3 04DA)
Tax Lot #'s 800 & 2000 (Tract A)

Steamboat Park lies within the City limits and borders the Tualatin River for approximately 430 feet. Steamboat Park is approximately .85 of an acre and approximately 75 percent (.64 acres) of it is scheduled for riparian enhancement and habitat restoration.

GOAL:

The restoration of the riparian and adjacent area in Steamboat Park with native vegetation that will enhance the water quality of the Tualatin River. Removal of invasive, non-native plant material.

VOLUNTEERS:

To date over 594 volunteer hours have been logged on this project, with over 100 volunteer participants.

METRO – GRANT CONTRACT LABOR:

Metro provided 154 hours of contracted labor from July 1, 2002 through June 30, 2002. Cost of labor was \$25/hr. ($\$25 \times 154 = \3850).

NATIVE PLANTS:

Approximately 400 native plants were introduced to Steamboat Park through volunteer and grant funded planting days. As of June 30, 2002 only two of these native plants did not survive, they were lost to beaver damage.

STEAMBOAT PARK – WINTER 2000





**STEAMBOAT PARK – APRIL 2000
INVASIVE REMOVAL – PARK CLEAN-UP**







**STEAMBOAT PARK – APRIL 2000
INVASIVE REMOVAL – PARK CLEAN-UP**





**STEAMBOAT PARK – APRIL 2000
INVASIVE REMOVAL – PARK CLEAN-UP**





**STEAMBOAT PARK – MARCH 2001
PLANTING NATIVE PLANTS**



**STEAMBOAT PARK – MARCH 2001
PLANTING NATIVE PLANTS**





STEAMBOAT PARK – SUMMER 2001
WATERING & MAINTENANCE OF NATIVE PLANTS





**STEAMBOAT PARK – MARCH 2001
PLANTING NATIVE PLANTS**









STEAMBOAT PARK – SUMMER 2001
WATERING & MAINTENANCE OF NATIVE PLANTS







STEAMBOAT PARK – SUMMER 2001
WATERING & MAINTENANCE OF NATIVE PLANTS







STEAMBOAT PARK – NOVEMBER 2001
NEW NATIVE PLANTS







STEAMBOAT PARK – NOVEMBER 2001
NEW NATIVE PLANTS







STEAMBOAT PARK –JUNE 2002
NEW NATIVE PLANTS



